



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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Inquiry: I would like to know the current Scope of Practice and the Respiratory Care Board's position on Respiratory Care Practitioners administering inhaled narcotics.

Response : Administration of approved aerosolized medication is definitely within the scope of practice and is defined as - Classification 1A.

The specific part of your request regarding inhaled narcotics resulted in the Board conducting a clinical literature search. Our search indicated that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not classify narcotics for use by inhaled routes except for research purposes. It is, therefore, our recommendation that clarification be obtained by the FDA prior to implementing this practice. They can be reached at the following address:

FDA
601 North 7th Street,
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-2263

Once you receive clarification from the FDA, the RCB would recommend this practice be developed into a protocol. That protocol must include appropriate training and competencies that will provide this procedure in a manner that would be safe when administered to the public. That onus rests with the licensed health facility wishing to implement this practice.

Reference # 2001-C-37